

Message

From: Governors' Biofuels Coalition [larry@governorscoalition.org]
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To: Dunham, Sarah [Dunham.Sarah@epa.gov]
Subject: Today's Biofuels News

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NEWS UPDATE

July 6, 2020

Top Story

U.S. EPA Puts 2021 Biofuel Blending Mandate Proposal on Hold Indefinitely, Sources Say

By Stephanie Kelly, Reuters • • Posted July 5, 2020

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has put on hold indefinitely a proposal for the amount of biofuels refiners must blend into their fuel next year, two sources familiar with the matter said. Many anticipated the proposal would come out in late June or early July. The EPA was expected to lift biofuel blending obligations in 2021 to 20.17 billion gallons, from 20.09 billion this year, two sources previously told Reuters. The EPA had no comment. [read more ...]

Retroactive SRE Applications

Wheeler points to 'a number of issues' with gap year SREs

By Spencer Chase, Agri-pulse • • Posted July 5, 2020

EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler says there are a handful of unanswered questions in the effort by small refineries looking to secure relief from past blending requirements of the nation's biofuel mandate. Speaking to reporters Wednesday, Wheeler said the waivers – which are typically awarded within a year of the compliance period – bring into question how to offer relief the refineries are seeking. [read more ...]

U.S. Senator Cruz will block EPA nomination over biofuels costs to refiners

By Stephanie Kelly, Reuters • • Posted July 5, 2020

U.S. Senator Ted Cruz said on Wednesday he would block the nomination of an Environmental Protection Agency official until the agency brings stability to the rising costs borne by oil refiners for complying with U.S. biofuel blending laws. Cruz, a Republican from Texas, follows a similar statement from Iowa Republican Joni Ernst, who said last week she would block Doug Benevento's nomination for EPA deputy administrator. U.S. President Donald Trump's administration engaged in a years-long effort to modify the nation's biofuels blending laws and satisfy both the refining and corn industries that supported his 2016 election. [read more ...]

RFA Thanks House Members for Opposing Gap-Year Refinery Waivers

By KTIC Radio • • Posted July 5, 2020

"The Trump Administration has now heard from Members of the House, Senators and Governors on this important issue for rural America," said RFA president and CEO Geoff Cooper. "Even the Environmental Protection Agency itself has noted there are significant 'issues' with these waivers, and we urge a speedy denial of these attempts by the oil industry to circumvent federal law and the recent court decision limiting waivers to extensions of ones previously received." [read more ...]

SAFE Rule

Ag, biofuel groups challenge EPA on SAFE Vehicles rule

By National Farmers Union • • Posted July 5, 2020

A broad coalition of ethanol, agriculture, and public interest groups are challenging the Trump administration's recent fuel efficiency rulemaking, on that grounds that it downplays the harm from reduced emission standards, ignores the efficiency and health benefits of higher ethanol blends, and fails to realize the promise of increased octane in gasoline. [read more ...]

Air Quality

Growth Energy Urges EPA to combat PM emissions with ethanol

By Ethanol Producer Magazine • • Posted July 5, 2020

Growth Energy Senior Vice President of Regulatory Affairs Chris Bliley submitted comments to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on the agency's review of the national ambient air quality standards for particulate matter (PM NAAQS). In his comments, Bliley noted that, "Through multiple rulemakings at EPA over the last decade including those on greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles and the Tier 3 fuel regulation, Growth Energy has submitted a wealth of data to further support the

conclusion that ethanol decreases harmful particulate emissions... We think this is a critical opportunity for the agency to review this data as it reviews the PM NAAQS standards.” [read more ...]

Mid-level Ethanol Blends

UAI comments cite EPA’s obstacles to mid-level blends

By Ethanol Producer Magazine • • Posted July 5, 2020

The Urban Air Initiative filed comments with the EPA calling on the agency to correct several crucial provisions impacting ethanol blends as part of a new rule designed to streamline regulations governing gasoline and diesel fuels. As published in the Federal Register, EPA states the rule is intended to streamline and modernize existing regulations, to reduce compliance costs for industry, and, among other things, remove unnecessary requirements. [read more ...]

2020 Campaign

Joni Ernst, Theresa Greenfield jockey for position as ethanol champions as election heats up

By Brianne Pfannenstiel, Des Moines Register • • Posted July 5, 2020

Iowa’s U.S. Senate candidates are jockeying for roles as champions of the state’s ethanol industry, which leads the nation but faces renewed threats from within the federal government. Both Republican U.S. Sen. Joni Ernst and Democratic challenger Theresa Greenfield have taken issue with waivers the Environmental Protection Agency granted to small oil refineries exempting them from using renewable fuels, arguing they undercut the demand for ethanol. [read more ...]

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Governors' Biofuels Coalition
Governors' Coalition
P.O. Box 94922
Lincoln, NE 68509

